



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

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CONTACT: Adam Liegeot, 860-524-7313
Adam.Liegeot@ct.gov

Governor Rell Announces \$40,000 for Sterilization of Feral Cats

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that 11 Connecticut organizations are being awarded a total of \$40,000 in grants for the 2007 fiscal year through the state's new Feral Cat Grant Program.

"Feral cats are wild by nature – many have never known a human touch or received veterinary care," Governor Rell said. "Meanwhile, we are seeing an explosion in their populations which presents us with a major animal welfare challenge.

"We want to get to the root of the problem, so we want to do all we can to help local groups address the health of these animals in a humane fashion. The non-profit organizations who are receiving these grants are made up of dedicated volunteers who will help us make steady progress in this area, and I commend them on the fine work they are doing. I also thank our Department of Agriculture Commissioner Philip Prelli and his excellent staff for their efforts."

Feral cat organizations receiving grant money are as follows:

- The Animal Center, Newtown
- Friends of Feral Felines, East Lyme
- Flora's Pet Project, Naugatuck
- Helping Paws, Colchester
- Animals for Life, South Britain
- Compassion for Cats, Shelton
- Cats Northeast, Mansfield Center
- The Alliance In Limiting Strays, Westport
- Meow, Litchfield
- Cat Rescue, Wilton
- The Greater New Haven Cat Project, New Haven

The Department of Agriculture's Animal Population Control Program (APCP) will administer the program. Since 2001, the APCP has provided vaccination/sterilization benefits to more than 15,000 adopted dogs and cats and over 40,000 pets since the program's inception in 1995. Previously, the only way to receive state benefits was by rescuing a pet from one of the approximately 150 pounds in Connecticut. Over the past eight years, the APCP's work has contributed to a 30 percent reduction in impounded dogs and cats in Connecticut, and a 53 percent reduction in euthanized animals in the state, freeing up resources for other programs.

For more information about the Feral Cat Grant Program or information about how to receive state benefits by adopting a pound pet, please contact the APCP office at 860-713-2507, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or visit www.ct.gov/doag/ and click on "Programs and Services."